

**Salem County Youth Services Commission Meeting Minutes  
June 6, 2018.**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30PM by Jean Kuhl. Welcome and introductions around the room commenced.

Attendees:

2018 Members

**Jean Kuhl** (Community Advocate-Chair), **James Whitt** (Ranch Hope-Co-Chair);

**Chuck Goldstein** (CGS-CMO)

**Ron Hudak** (CGS-CMO)

**Gabrielle Hall** (Juvenile Public Defender)

**Honorable Sandra Lopez** (Judge)

**Greg Wolf** (Family Court-Supervisor)

**Allen Cummings** (Chief-Pennsville Police)

**John Stranahan** (Chief-Penns Grove Police)

**Sarah Kuhl** (Rutgers Early Childhood Development-Subsidy Case Manager)

**Melanie Ernest** (Executive Director-IAC)

**Frank Carozza** (Youth Services/CIACC Program Coordinator-IAC)

**Thomas A. Brown** (Designee for Glen Donelson Mid-Atlantic States)

**Rick Bird** (JJC Juvenile Parole)

**Brian Pennington** (Sheriff's Department- Designee-Warren Mabey)

Guests:

Ed Ramsay (Community Resident), Alaine Zizzamia (Pittsgrove Middle School), Tiliya Riley (Substance Abuse Navigator), Tim Gregory (The Huddle-Director), Tina DiNicola (Assistant Trial Court Administrator-Judiciary), Rosemarie Cuevas, (Substance Abuse Navigator).

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018:**

Jim Whitt moved to accept last month's meeting minutes, Allan Cummings seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Committee Reports:**

**Planning – Ron Hudak**

No report at this time due to awaiting the results of monitoring of current programming.

**Quality Assurance – Armando Gonzalez**

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Monitoring is scheduled to begin on 6-7-2018 with Quinton Township School and Penns Grove High School. Kiandra Anthony of the CGS-FSO has been announced as the new Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee in place of Karen Vann.

**JET – Greg Wolf**

The Juvenile Expediting Team met on 6/5/2018 and discussed multiple juveniles. Greg mentioned that Frank Carozza provided a Memo from the Juvenile Justice Commission on the guidelines, purpose, and responsibility of MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Teams) which was shared with the members of the committee and office. The next meeting will be held July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.

**Administrator's Report – Frank Carozza**

Frank thanked all in attendance and announced programs have been prepped for monitoring that is set to begin tomorrow. He also mentioned that many vendors/providers were unable to make the meeting due to end of the school year commitments and active programming facilitation. Frank provided the Youth Services Commission the provider reports that all vendors submitted.

In May, Freeholder Director Melissa DeCastro signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Inter-Agency Council outlining the responsibilities of Inter-Agency Council and the County Government with regard to administering the Youth Services Commission. As part of this agreement, the IAC must monitor the County's use of YSC 1/3 set-aside funding, which at this time, are used to fund, in part, the Sherriff's Ankle Bracelet Program. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding detailing the use of Client-Specific funds has been distributed to Family Court and Probation for use.

Kelly Hannigan (County Treasurer) has been approved to serve as the County's fiscal approving officer for JAMS. June 13<sup>th</sup> 2018, the JJC will be Auditing Salem County for the 2016-17 term.

Robin's Nest Summer Youth Employment is set to begin at the end of June. Referral forms were distributed to Family Court and Probation.

The Comprehensive Plan update is to be prepared and ready for the end of August 2018 for submission to the JJC.

The 2018 Youth Services Year to Date Comprehensive Folder containing Salem County Youth Services membership, By-Laws, vendor training packets, and program funding information was passed around the room and available for review by request.

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**JJC Liaison Report** – No report.

**Providers Reports:** Frank Carozza via Providers Reports

**Robins Nest – Breaking Limits**- Has served (3) youth to date and is currently serving (3) youth.

**Grounded** – (3) youth served Year to date and (1) being served currently.

**Connect II** – one open slot and (3) pending youth.

**Cognitive Skills Program**- Is currently operating with (6) out of (12) possible youth group slots for the spring cycle. The second round of programming is set to begin in August or September.

**Summer Youth Employment**- Set To begin at end of June/ early July. Program is actively taking referrals from probation and Family Court.

**YAP** –Year to date, Pay It Forward has served (13) youth. They are currently working with (3) (diversion) youth. They also are offering anti-theft programming called PATTS (Peaceful Alternatives to Tough Situations) as part of their programming. As of April 2018, they have spent \$4382.63 and expect to meet their commitments for the year.

**Quinton Township** – No report at this time; Programming set to begin in September 2018.

**Schalick HS / Pittsgrove MS – Alaine Zizzamia**

Year to date, PTMS P.R.I.D.E Program has served 392 students and is finishing strong with club activities such as Theatre/Club, STEM, Science Fair Clubs, Art, Basketball Club, Softball Club and Field Hockey Club scheduled for 2018. Zero funds have been used Year to Date as scheduled programming is set to begin in September of 2018.

Alaine also mentioned Anti-Gang Programming is facilitated through character education. All activities are used to resist gang activity fall under the activities of the Renaissance Program. In May and June 2018, as the Renaissance program wrapped up, (26) students were distinguished with a one act play at the high school. A motorized helicopter was awarded and all participants in the program were invited to the end of the year dance. Fifteen (15) students were offered an 'Escape Room' challenge and competed. Additionally, Over (100) students received top honors (Gold Cards) with the assistance of a very helpful student council. Alaine also thanked Dr. Priscilla Ocasio-Jimenez and the board of Education for assistance in funding the 2017-18 year with funds provided by the Board of Education in accordance with the Youth Services Commission contract.

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**Penns Grove High School** – No report.

**JDAI:** Armando Gonzalez

Salem County is the 19<sup>th</sup> JDAI site in NJ to implement the Risk Screening Tool. The RST is used to make decisions regarding detention requests. With the tool, certain criteria is utilized consistent with the use of secure detention, and all of the factors/questions entered into database will calculate to generate a score which will guide the family division intake officer with their decision to either detain the youth, release the youth onto a detention alternative or release to youth to a parent/guardian. The JDAI Risk Screening Tool Subcommittee has created the RST implementation plan and is in the process of scheduling various stakeholder trainings, with the first overview/training scheduled for Monday June 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the Salem council Meeting – Interested YSC members are encouraged to attend the meeting where more detailed information will be provided.

**Law Enforcement Report:** Chief Allen Cummings

Chief Cummings explained that there is a Memorandum of Understanding between law enforcement and schools in each municipality. Each year, chiefs across Salem County meet with Superintendents of Schools to review and renew each of their MOU's. Those are then agreed upon, signed, and sent to the Prosecutor. Chief Cummings went on to report in accordance with the MOU, that there were (10) juvenile arrests in the month of May from all of local law enforcement including the Sheriff's Department (Excluding State Police) in the following jurisdictions:

- (4)- Pennsville
- (3)-Carney's Point
- (2)-Salem City
- (1)- Elmer

Now that school is out, Chief Cummings predicted these numbers will most likely increase. The use of Station House Adjustments was brought up and how it may be underutilized or not used at all due to the concern that it requires putting a juveniles name in the system. Continued discussions are welcomed at the Monthly Chief's meeting to promote understanding, implementation, and best practices for officers to better implement and track Station House Adjustments. Currently, Pennsville's township school district generally faxes their complaints to the police department and administrators come after school to sign the official typed complaint. This is done to avoid embarrassment on behalf of the school and parent concern of

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police cars arriving at the school. Outside of school, the current trend is putting the offending juvenile's name in the system on an ordinance violation and having the parents come in to pick their children up in lieu of arresting and charging the youth or by using a tracked Station House Adjustment. Lastly, domestic violence disputes are keeping officers busy usually taking up to two hours per case. Also, there must be an officer must be in the Station House during these lengthy processes. This is particularly troublesome because law enforcement staff has been decreased from (31) down to (22) officers due to loss of "ratables" and budget constraints. Penns Grove is currently also down to (14) officers. Chief Cummings will continue to provide juvenile arrest figures to keep the Commission up to date and get more information on Station House Adjustments from future meetings.

Chuck Goldstein mentioned that Robin's Nest provides the "Second Chance" program which utilizes Station House Adjustments in Gloucester as a possible resource for law enforcement.

Rick Byrd informed the Commission on a Chaplaincy Service in Cumberland County that utilizes trained Chaplains to work with Law Enforcement to promote Station-House Adjustment programs. Police Chief Jody Farabella of Millville, NJ and currently utilizes this service along with the Vineland Police Department Chief Rudy Beu.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business** – Planning and Allocations is prepared to call a special meeting to discuss findings of the Monitoring Committee since the Youth Services Commission is not scheduled to meet in July and August of 2018.

**Announcements** –

Jean Kuhl spoke about the Leni Lenape Pow Wow at the Salem County Fairgrounds. Cost to enter is five (5) dollars per person. In July 2018, Programming and workshops are also scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students Financial Literacy and Anger & Danger Program events in Penns Grove High School.

Tim Gregory announced the 5<sup>th</sup> active week of positive Active Parenting Programming at The Huddle of South Jersey. Programming includes talking with fathers about important aspects of fatherhood, child support, and co-parenting. They are currently serving (13) fathers. They meet Thursdays 4-6PM at the Family Success Center in Salem. They also assisted with the Daddy Daughter Dance at Fenwick Academy with attendance of over 200 fathers in attendance.

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There will be a “Hidden in Plain Sight” presentation at Pennsville High School on Wednesday June 13<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:30pm. Adults only are welcomed to attend.

Gabrielle Hall stated that the Court staff would like to be more present at JDAI meetings; however Mondays and Wednesdays are difficult days due to court scheduling. Tina DiNicola has identified this issue, and is actively working to resolve it with Gina Blevins.

Judge Sandra Lopez and Tina DiNicola expanded on the ‘Courtrooms to Classrooms’ Initiative where Court Staff visit schools and students visit the courthouse to be able to explore the Juvenile Justice System and ask questions while given tours and presentations to greater enhance understandings between the community and the Courts.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm with a motion from Armando Gonzalez and seconded by Frank Carozza. The next meeting will be September 5, 2018 at 12:00 noon in the St. Johns Parish Hall, Market St, Salem.